

Message Text

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TAGS: SHUM, UN, UNHRC

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) -ITEM 13

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF CLOSED SESSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN UGANDA, EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND ISRAEL, (SEE GENEVA 1664) HRC RESUMED OPEN DEBATE UNDER ITEM 13. SPEAKERS INCLUDED PANAMANIAN DEL WHO ACCUSED US OF ESTABLISHING SYSTEM OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN CANAL ZONE, CUBAN REP WHO LAUNCHED ATTACK ON URUGUAY, AND ISRAELI DEL WITH STATEMENT ON SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION POLICY. COMMITTEE VOTED TO DEFER ACTION ON US PROPOSAL TO MODIFY 1503 PROCEDURES. END SUMMARY.

2. PANAMANIAN DEL COMMENCED STATEMENT WITH CONDEMNATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID THEN MOVED ON TO ACCUSE US OF ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE CANAL ZONE. SPEAKER STATED SOME FAVORABLE CHANGES HAVE BEEN MADE SINCE 1955 BUT US PERSISTS IN DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PANAMANIAN BASED ON SEPARATE WAGE SCALES AND LACK OF ACCESS TO PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS. US REP REPLIED

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THAT QUESTION OF CANAL ZONE IS MATTER OF PRIORITY CON-

CERN AND IS CURRENTLY SUBJECT OF HIGH-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS.

3. CUBAN DELEGATE, USING MATERIAL RECENTLY PUBLISHED BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, LAUNCHED ATTACK ON URUGUAY BY RADING OFF LIST OF PERSONS ALLEGEDLY UNDER DETENTION, TORTURED OR MISSING. IN REPLY URUGUAYAN DEL STATED HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT CONDEMNATION FROM COUNTRY LIKE CUBA WHICH LACKS CREDENTIALS TO ACCUSE ANY OTHER STATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND WHICH HAS PROBABLY MORE POLITICAL PRISONERS THAN ANY STATE PRESENT.

4. FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY ISRAELI OBSERVER ON SOVIET POLICY RE JEWISH IMMIGRATION AND ON JEWS IN SYRIA, SOVIET DEL MADE GROUNDLESS, PERSONAL ATTACK ON CHAIRMAN (JUVIGNY) CLAIMING ISRAELI DEL SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN PERMITTED TO SPEAK AND FURTHER THAT ISRAELI STATEMENT CONSTITUTED INTERVENTION IN SOVIET INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

5. COMMISSION ALSO TOOK ACTION ON US RESOLUTION PROPOSING MODIFICATION OF 1503 PROCEDURES TO PUT MOST RECENT AVAILABLE COMMUNICATIONS AT DISPOSAL OF HRC WHEN CONSIDERING CASES OF GROSS VIOLATIONS. ALTHOUGH TEXT HAD EARLIER BEEN GIVEN INFORMAL APPROVAL BY NON-ALIGNED AND WEO GROUPS, THE NON-ALIGNED SUCCUMBED TO LAST MINUTE INTERNAL PRESSURES AND MOVED TO DEFER CONSIDERATION OF US MOTION UNTIL NEXT YEAR. IN SPITE OF US DEMAND FOR A VOTE AT THIS SESSION, A PROCEDURAL MOTION BY INDIA TO DEFER ACTION ON THE US RESOLUTION WAS GIVEN PRIORITY. VOTE TO DEFER US RESOLUTION WAS 17-8(US) -5. VOTING WITH US WERE WEO GROUP AND URUGUAY. TURKEY, PANAMA, IRAN, SENEGAL AND JORDAN ABSTAINED.DALE

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